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FEEL MORE LIKE A PROBLEM?**



COA Report

California Orthopaedic Association

August 20, 2021



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Good News

Dignity and Anthem Blue Cross Reach Agreement

Agreement Is Retroactive To Avoid a Disruption in Network Access

Dignity Health

Dignity Health has been working in good faith with Anthem BlueCross (Anthem) to negotiate a new contract for our hospitals, facilities and providers since January. Today, we are pleased to share that we have reached a new agreement with Anthem. This means patients insured through Anthem will continue to have in-network access to Dignity Health services and providers in California. This is a win for our patients, who deserve local access to high-quality health care services of their choice. The new agreement will have a retroactive effective date, so there will be no disruption in network access for Anthem-insured patients, including those who have received care from Dignity Health since July 15, 2021.

Medical Board Says Inappropriate Mask Exemptions May Subject Physicians To Discipline

California Medical Association

Faced with reports of rogue physicians selling bogus mask exemptions, the Medical Board of California has issued a statement informing licensees that physicians who grant a mask or other exemption without conducting an appropriate prior exam and without a finding of a legitimate medical reason supporting such an exemption within the standard of care may be subject to disciplinary action.

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[PRODUCT SHOWCASE](#)



Orthopedic Surgeon for busy practice

Great opportunity for an orthopedic surgeon in a busy practice with excellent compensation. Primarily WC & PI practice with some private insurance patients.

Will need to work in multiple modern clinics in Los Angeles & Orange Counties & Inland Empire.

No nights or weekends
No hospital call
Fellowship not required

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COA Workers' Compensation QME Course — Register Today!

COA

Are you Planning to Become a QME?
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If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, [sign up for COA's Mandatory Report-Writing Course](#).

This will be an in-person meeting allowing attendees to interact and ask questions of faculty members.

WHEN: September 17, Friday evening – 5:00 pm – 9:30 pm
September 18, Saturday – 8:00 am -4:00 pm

WHERE: Pacifica Orthopedics – 11th Floor Conference Room
18800 Delaware St. #1100, Huntington Beach

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Job Opportunities

COA

Regional Hand Center — Posted 8/15/21
[Orthopaedic Surgeon – Hand Surgeon is Needed](#)

[Learn more](#) about the following job opportunities:

Ventura Orthopedics — Posted: 7/19/21
Orthopedic Surgeon Shoulder and Elbow Reconstruction

Orthopaedic Surgeon Needed — Posted 7/19/2021

Orthopedic Fellowship- Out-Patient TJA — Posted 7/19/2021
Start Date July 2022

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Physician Comp Is Crucial To Value-Based Care. Getting It Right Is Hard.

Modern Healthcare

More healthcare executives and experts have taken aim at how doctors get paid, blaming antiquated compensation plans,

in part, for the failure of value-based payment to deliver on its grandiose promises. Mount Sinai Health System in New York is one of many established healthcare organizations that have struggled to navigate the murky waters of value-based payment and prepare for a world without fee-for-service reimbursement.

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Shared Office Space Available

An established (30 years) solo orthopedic surgeon looking to share spacious (approx. 5000 sq ft) office with another orthopedic surgeon. Practice located 25 miles east of downtown Los Angeles with in-house digital x-ray, physical therapy, and friendly office staff. A good hospital and an outpatient surgery center within 5-10 minutes from the office. Willing to refer patients to the new doctor. Eventual takeover of the practice is a definite possibility. [View pictures of the space here.](#)

Contact: Hose Kim, M.D. Phone: 562-945-8873 or Email: hkimmd1@gmail.com

Orthopedic Surgeon Pay Per wRVU Up 11.36% in 2020

Becker's Spine Review

Orthopedic surgeons reported a steep drop in work relative value units, but the compensation per unit increased, according to AMGA's 2021 Medical Group Compensation and Productivity survey. The wRVU for orthopedic surgeons was down 14.84 percent in 2020 from 2019. Compensation per wRVU increased 11.36 percent, meaning overall pay dropped less than 1 percent in 2020. Pay among all surgical specialties was up 1.95 percent on average, and median wRVU decreased 11.97 percent. The large declines in wRVU reflect canceled surgeries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall, half of physicians said guaranteed compensation was reduced, and 25 percent said they received advanced salaries that would be balanced later.

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UnitedHealthcare Guided Yale's Groundbreaking Surprise Billing Study

The Intercept

In 2016, an academic study from some of the most respected scholars in health care economics prompted a national outcry. The study, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by Yale University researchers, found that 22% of the time someone goes to an emergency room in a hospital covered by their insurance, they still receive costly bills after being treated by an out-of-network doctor. The practice, known as "surprise billing," saddles Americans with thousands of dollars in debt per year. The researchers went on to find that surprise billing was not only relatively common, but also a tactic that private equity-owned hospital staffing companies had employed to increase revenue. According to their findings, when either of the country's two largest staffing companies took over a hospital's emergency department, out-of-network charges soared. The research was based on data from more than 2 million claims provided by UnitedHealthcare, the largest private health insurance company in the United States, under a data sharing agreement with Yale.

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